



Reach Out and Care

ROC Wheels Inc. Newsletter

Volume V

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Chairman of the Board

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Art Koenes

Director

Dave Urband

Director / Manufacturing

Established July 2004

The Church of Agony



ROC WHEELS "HOLY LAND CHILDREN'S WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTION"

Advisory Committee:

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Stephen Sanford

Mark Richard

Brad Wright

Mark Wellman

Catherine Mulholland

Gregory Horacek

Phillip Haney

Jody Rich

Lonny Davis

Tamara Kittelson-Aldred

Bill Werling

Nancy Clark

Bill Senecal

While sitting on the roof of the Mt. of Olives Hotel watching the sun set over Jerusalem, I took time to reflect on the last 6 months and the challenging year that lies ahead. This year we are performing missions in some of the poorest regions in the world. Helping children and families in countries currently struggling with unstable political strife, ongoing wars, and potential famine. In such a time of dire broad ranging need we're grateful the Lord has allowed us the means to answer a few prayers. Many of these countries are recovering from past wars, dictatorships, and economic collapses— but they are recovering. One example is our partnership with Kids First Vietnam to establish a self sustaining wheelchair production facility that creates socio-economic growth while providing much needed wheelchairs to the Quang Tri Province. We have certainly been blessed with your generous support over the years. It has allowed us to expanded our schedule to include two more very worthy missions this year to Iraq and Peru. Your continued support for ROC Wheels will ensure a better future for thousands of people that desperately need our assistance.

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ROC Wheels Inc. is a 501(c)(3)
non-profit organization.



Providing mobility products without regard to political affiliation, religious belief or ethnic identity.



Holy Land Team

"Empowering People Through the Gift of Mobility"

Providing mobility products without regard to political affiliation, religious belief or ethnic identity.

IRAQ MISSION NEARS COMPLETION



Beginning of Custom Fitting



Much improved body position and support for this gentleman



Dick Stepan "Miracle worker"



Brad Blauser and Captain Fargo

The Iraq Mission has been quite an inspiring mission. We have nearly raised the full \$20,000 needed for the 100 ROC Chairs. The entire mission started with an e-mail from Brad Blauser requesting wheelchairs for children in Iraq. Brad set up a website and we began to raise support through our networks. The heartfelt response to help these children and support our troops has been overwhelming. We are all deeply grateful!

Several organizations and individuals worked together to raise these funds. Many newspapers, websites (Michael Yon), radio stations, and news channels helped raise awareness about this Mission.

ROC Wheels received the **"Champion of Freedom Award,"** from **FAMILIES UNITED FOR OUR TROOPS AND THEIR MISSION.** ROC Wheels received a plaque and a \$500 check, for "unyielding support of our armed forces and their families in the war on terror." On June 10th a C-130 flew 100 ROC Chairs to Mosul thanks to USAID's Denton Program. Capt. Matthew Fargo and the 1-17 Stryker Brigade are custom fitting each chair to children in northern Iraq. We look forward to the pictures and follow-up stories from the US Troops and Iraqi Families that they help.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Art Koenes and Dave Urband are the newest elected Board Members of ROC Wheels Inc. Art first became aware of ROC Wheels while taking part in the San Carlos, Mexico Mission. Art's heart showed through in his hard work and passion for the children we served. Art's son AJ joined the Holy Land Trip where he served as a wheelchair fitter.

Dave Urband has been a long time advisor to ROC Wheels. Dave is a specialist in the field of wheelchair fabrication and innovation. This year Dave will have substantial input as we help begin the Kids First Vietnam ROC Chair production facility in Dong Ha.

MEMORIES FROM THE HOLY LAND DISTRIBUTION

The Holy Land Trip was a wonderful partnership between ROC Wheels and Hope Haven. We distributed many wheelchairs at four different distribution sites. The first day of distribution was at Four Homes of Mercy. We partnered with therapists from Four Homes of Mercy to fit children and young adults in their new wheelchairs. On day two we visited Jemima to remove children from poor fitting wheelchairs and move them into pediatric wheelchairs. We also visited Lifegate and fit many more children. The third day we visited the Abu Raya Rehabilitation Center in Ramallah. The checkpoints proved very difficult and even prevented some mothers from bringing their children to Abu Raya. We spoke with several parents who told us it took over three hours to pass through the checkpoints. It was very rewarding to work with specialist from these locations. Thanks to translators we spoke with parents and told them how to use the many features and adjustments

of the wheelchairs to best serve their children's future needs. The parents had many questions and often jumped in to help with the custom fitting. Experiences like this touched our hearts and surpassed any political differences.

One mother and her two sons stuck out. She had been waiting all day to have her children fit at the same time. Unfortunately due to poor nutrition during pregnancy she gave birth to two sons that were not fully developed. Imagine having two young children without wheelchairs and watching them grow bigger than you can handle. She was at the point where she could no longer provide the care the children needed. Thanks to supporters of the Adopt-A-Chair program we were able to fit her two sons with a new ROC Chair and Kids Chair. Watching her walk

out of the Clinic pushing her two sons was overpowering. In that short period of time many lives were changed.



This mother's 2 sons each received new wheelchairs



Big smiles in Ramallah, West Bank

TROIJK, RUSSIA TRIP JULY 1-7 - ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

The Troizk Russia ROC Wheelchair distribution is scheduled for July 1-7 thanks to a partnership between Rotary International and ROC Wheels Inc. The masterminds behind this mission are the dedicated souls of the Wenatchee Rotary Club in Wenatchee, WA. Bob Rowe and others developed the idea with the Troizk Russia Rotary Club. Many children and adults in this region have little hope for a wheelchair. We will be providing much needed pediatric wheelchairs and other mobility devices thanks to the generous donation of a Rotary International Matching Grant in the amount of \$24,800. Many major charities no longer distribute humanitarian aid to Russia due to the extensive detail and restrictions of the Russian Customs.

Any deviation from the approved inventory can result in major complications and possible confiscation of the wheelchairs. The entire operation would not have been possible if it wasn't for the help of Lena Gregg and Alla Lambert. Lena is originally from St. Petersburg, Russia and now lives in Tulsa, OK where she works for *Christ For Humanity*. Missions like this do not happen without great people working hard to overcome adversity. It's been a very hands-on process, but we are looking forward to helping nearly 100 children and young adults in Troizk (20 miles SW of Moscow). Bob Rowe has coordinated the in country logistics. ROC is taking a small team of specialists and therapists on this mission. Thank You Rotary International!



BIG SKY ROTARY CLUB FUNDRAISER RAISES \$12,000 FOR ROC

On January 19th 2006 the Big Sky Rotary Club generously allowed ROC Wheels Executive Director, Andrew Babcock to speak during their annual fundraiser. Following Andrew's speech hands began to shoot up everywhere signifying their ROC Chair donation. Emotions ran high, from cheering to tears as people opened their hearts and wallets. "In our wildest dreams we would have raised this much money," said Club President Jerry Mistretta (Pictured on Left). "To have 40 ROC Chairs sponsored on this night was the emotional climax of the evening." These ROC Chair sponsorships were directed towards Israel, Mexico, and Mali Africa. Next year we plan to fund an entire distribution in one evening! ROC Wheels is grateful to all the hard workers of the Big Sky Rotary Club and all those that answered the call that fine evening. See you next January!



The Jerusalem Fund

FOR EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ROC Wheels received a \$5,000 grant from The Jerusalem Fund for the cost of 16 ROC Chairs for the Holy Land Trip. The bulk of the ROC Chairs were distributed at the Abu Raya Rehabilitation Center in Ramallah (newly renovated)



Abu Raya Rehabilitation Center
Funded by the State of Kuwait



VIETNAM ROC CHAIR FACILITY PROGRESSES WITH GRANT

Adopt-A-Minefield has approved a grant in the amount of \$45,000 to help ROC Wheels set-up a ROC Chair Production Facility in the Quang Tri Province. During the Vietnam War this region was known as the DMZ. More bombs and landmines were used in this area than in all of World War II. Kids First Vietnam, ROC Wheels Inc., and Hope Haven have been working towards the day when 25 Vietnamese workers will fabricate 200 wheelchairs each month to help empower the people of Vietnam to provide for their own wheelchair needs. A proposal was submitted to Adopt-A-Minefield outlining the specific cost requirements needed to accomplish all three phases of this operation. Thanks to their generous support we will continue to

purchase equipment in Vietnam and begin to produce templates and fixtures for wheelchair production. We plan on performing a wheelchair manufacturing training seminar and custom fitting clinic some time in September or October. Three ROC Manufacturing specialists will join the mission and perform training for the employees of the facility. We will teach Vietnamese nationals the methods to manufacture the ROC Chair at the Kids First Rehabilitation Center in Dong Ha, Vietnam. The factory will be sustainable from the very beginning. We are honored to help improve the socio-economic growth of a region that is still recovering from the aftermath of the Vietnam War. Please contact us if you would like to support this mission.

Kids First Vietnam Village

Future ROC Chair Production Facility



! NEW ADDRESS !
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AREQUIPA, PERU WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTION MISSION

ROC Wheels was contacted by **Jodee Fortner**, a physical therapist in Horsham, PA requesting our assistance in Arequipa, Peru. This mountainous town has an ongoing medical mission sponsored by MMI. This community has identified 90 children and young adults that need wheelchairs. This mission is being funded by Jodee's friends and colleagues along with various Rotary Clubs in

Pennsylvania. Additional funding is needed to help provide the 90 needed wheelchairs for this region. By the time you read this the 90 pediatric and standard wheelchairs will be on their way to Peru. We still need donations in all amounts to help fund this mission. Please consider sponsoring a wheelchair for a child in Peru. We still need to raise approximately \$6,500. Thank You

MISSION TO MALI- WHEELCHAIRS AND MEDICAL CLINIC

It all began with an e-mail request from a graduate student at Montana State University requesting a wheelchair for her son in Mali. Now it has grown to a wheelchair distribution and medical clinic fully supported by the President and First Lady of Mali. In early December ROC Wheels will perform a wheelchair distribution in Mali Africa. Medicine For Mali has partnered with ROC to provide medical services during the distribution. The First Lady is very involved with our plans and she has offered us her full support. The people in Mali are very kind and generous. They have adopted a stable multi-party democratic government following their independence from France in 1960. Malians actively search out partnerships around the world to help improve the lives of their people. Sidy Ba and Dr. Balla have been instrumental in the coordination of the Mission. We will fly into Bomako and distribute

wheelchairs for three days at the First Ladies Hospital and outlying areas. On the morning of day four we will travel through the heart of Mali to our next base of operations in Mopti. Teams will spread out into the surrounding Villages of Sendegue and Dera to distribute wheelchairs and provide medical services for two days. The seventh day the team will tour the Dogon cliff villages. The Dogon are a people with an ancient history and amazing culture. In the evening we will take part in a celebratory feast. On the eighth day we will drive back to Bomako for our return flights on the following day. On the way back we will visit Djenne, a World Heritage Sight, and home of The Great Mosque, the worlds largest clay structure. We are still searching for partnering organizations and clubs to help cover the financial obligations. Space is limited so please contact ROC soon if you are interested!



An ancient olive tree in The Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives



A white dove resting on an indent in the Wailing Wall

ROC WHEELS ADOPT-A-CHAIR REACH OUT & CARE

All wheelchairs are not alike
Children need special wheelchairs that grow with them and adapt to a wide variety of disabilities. A wheelchair should help the child function to the best of their ability.

The value of a standard mass-produced wheelchair with limited features is \$200-\$400.

The value of an Adaptive Custom Wheelchair with similar features to the Kids ROC Chair is \$2000-\$4000.

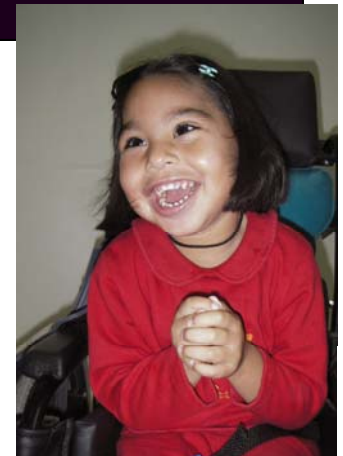
\$300.00 Adopt-A-Chair Sponsorship

This option allows you to sponsor a Kids ROC Chair. You will receive a photograph of a child in a ROC Chair that you helped provide for them. (Please allow sufficient time for the chair to arrive to the child and be documented before you receive the photograph.)

Optional: \$25 Monthly
(12 Payments purchases 1 Kids ROC Chair)
ROC Wheels needs donations of all amounts!

\$28,000 Sponsor an Entire Distribution

ROC Chairs, Refurbished Chairs, other mobility devices
Also: Cost of Shipping, Custom Fitting, and Follow-Up



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